

IR

Critically assess how the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the evolving geopolitical scenario in Palestine redefine the concept of State - sovereignty and territorial integrity. What challenges does this pose to the traditional nation-state system?

**Ans: Introduction:**

The Westphalian State system emerged from two key terms: "Sovereignty" and "territorial integrity". Sovereignty means a state has full control over its people, laws and policies, without external interference. While territorial integrity means respect the borders, political independence and decision-making of sovereign state. In **Ukraine - Palestine** conflict a clear contradiction is observed between crises. Where Ukraine is backed by US and NATO troops, while



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Palestine is affected by the continuous interception by the external actors. This explicitly explains the geopolitical concerns of alliances and interest. It imposes serious threats on the state-sovereignty in the form of cyber attacks, hybrid warfare and role of non-state actors. The international law is being rule-based violating the norms by imposing sanctions on one, while keeping the other impune from this law. The contradiction in decisions is due to lack of choice and decision making autonomously by international organizations.

## Concept of State Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity:

Concept originated from 1648 Westphalian system

### Sovereignty

It means a state has full authority over its



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people, laws and boundary without external interference. A state is autonomous to take its decision.

### Territorial Integrity:

It means to respect the borders of other state where political independence and decision making is pursued by state without transnational intervention.

### Senario Analysis:

#### Ukraine : Sovereignty Under Seige

A clear contradiction is observed when Ukraine is backed by more NATO troops and US military trainings against Russian aggression. Here international law is putting economic, political sanctions on Russia against genocide and intervention.



**Palestine:** In Palestine, there is no enforcement of international organization against genocide. In addition, Israel is being supported by **US**, that creates hinderance in the approach of fair peace deal.

## Redefine the Concept of Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity.

### i) Erosion of Westphalian System:

In 1648 Westphalian Nation-State System. It was committed to respect the contested borders peacefully. In modern international nation-state system, this concept is weakening, as, complete intervention of other states occur that disrupts the autonomy and political independence of state.



## ii) Globalization's Impact on Sovereignty:

In globalization states are interconnected through trade and economic policies. This interdependence makes state dependent over each other, where no policy can form without harming others. The treaties, transnational organization and non-state actors affect the policies and choices.

## iii) Territorial Integrity and International Law:

The international law creates confusion & when states fail to protect its people and a concept arises called

**Responsibility to Protect (R2P).**

This harms the internal peace of state and destabilize the economic.



political and social structure. This weakens the strength of authority and political independence, violating the concept of territorial integrity and sovereignty.

#### (iv) Sovereignty and Cyber Threats:

Ukraine was attacked by the cyber threats initiated by Russia. It made businesses, infrastructure and banks fail to operate. The disinformation campaigns spread false or fake news that manipulate the people's view. Ultimately, weakening the state control over population.

#### Challenges to Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity:

##### i) Role of Non-State Actors:

The presence of Pro-Russian "separatist groups" in Ukraine caused military and political disturbance in the



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governance structure. There are  
backed by Russia, that deal  
with long-term military conflict

In **Palestine**, ' Hamas ' is leading  
as separate group. from the  
state. Using its military and  
technological strength against  
Israel alone.

## ii) Proxy Wars:

The conflict that arose  
between two states, despite  
resolving the dispute, the  
rivals and alliance participate  
indirectly, that affect the  
sovereignty and integrity by  
indirect interference.

## iii) Globalization and Sovereignty

The economic interdependence  
among states raises concerns  
about the protection of  
borders. On the contrary,



Multinational Corporation (MNC's) and Intergovernmental Organizations (INGO's), they directly influence the decision-making and policies of state. This also pose serious threat to the state's autonomy.

#### iv) International Organisations:

Transnational bodies like UN, WTO, WB and International Law, these bodies make rule and bind the other states to obey these rules, rather to make free choice by their own.

#### Conclusion:

In the Ukraine - Palestine conflict, all the States, organisations bodies and norms are violating the rules. Despite, the concept is being protected, based on the strategic geopolitical alliances and interest. The NATO and BRICS is making



Just try adding IR jargons in headings

strong alliance against Russia, but Palestine is often ignored. The commitment of genocide, and enforcement of sanctions, is being done by UN forces, but no collective security measures are being taken for **Palestine**. This poses a threat to the sovereignty and integrity of other states as well in the future. In the form of non-state actors, MNC's, and globalization. Therefore, multilateral cooperation and collective security measures are required to protect, restore and retain the Westphalian state system.



2. Discuss the evolution of International Relation as an academic discipline.  
How has its scope been influenced by global conflicts and socio-economic developments over the decades?

Ans: Introduction:

International Relation is an important academic discipline. It assists to understand how world works, and how states make decisions. It also helps to understand conflicts, cooperation, trade and diplomacy. IR has evolved from major events like World Wars, Cold Wars and modern threats that lead to socio-economic developments. After WWI, major theories like "liberalism" and "Idealism" emerged. After WWII "Realism" became dominant. After cold war "bipolar" power system established and after 9/11 the IR has moved towards terrorism, and cyber security, and globalisation.



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The socio-economic developments have shifted the world towards economic interdependence, cooperation and human security. In fact, IR has now moved towards a more complex study where cyberthreats, terrorism, and climate change is the major threats that challenge the sovereignty in modern era.

## Globalization and Early Foundations:

### Early Foundations: After WWI:

The scholars led to the study of wars, and concluded that conflicts can be prevented through cooperation, democracy and collective security. Therefore, theories like "Liberalism" and "Idealism" emerged. Though criticized as too optimistic



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Add ideas here not events

League of Nations was founded.

After **WWII**:

"Realism" became dominant.  
The IR Scholar Hans J. Morgenthau  
in his book "Politics among  
Nations" argued that;  
"States pursue power politics  
for their interests."

After Cold War:

The bipolarity in power  
arose between the "United States"  
and the "Soviet Union". The IR  
shifted its focus towards the  
balance of power between two  
superpowers, deterrence and  
military power. The climate  
changes also started with the  
cyberthreats and multipolarity.

Modern Era:

IR has evolved new ideas  
and changed the state-centric  
previous ideas from  
unipolar to multipolar power.



New theories like "Constructivism" deals with ideas and behaviours shape the relations, "Feminism" brought world attention to the gender, "Post-Modernism" believes that narratives build the relations between states.

## Globalization:

The globalization has brought the world towards economic interdependence where all states aren't independent, and are bound to take decision collectively.

Add main headings

### i) Non-State Actors:

Non-State Actors also shape the IR. IGO's address the global issues like climate change and security. NGO's address the human rights and global corporations demand fairer trade, economic policies and human security.



### ii) Integrated Unions:

The regional organisations like ASEAN and EU, shows that states can cooperate before cooperation, peace, diplomacy and collective security.

### iii) Use of Culture:

The states have shifted their concerns of hegemony from using soft weapons rather than force. The states use education, film, language and social media influence to boost their cultural effect. **For instance, U.S** cultural followship will boost its universal influence.

### iv) Emerging Powers and Transition:

The rise of "China and India" as economic power is the challenge to the U.S. longstanding hegemony. As they seek major role in the global decision making.



## Global Conflicts and Socio-economic Development:

The world significantly after 9/11 shifted its concern from power accumulation to the collective security, terrorism, pandemics, climate change and militias group, that not only affect the states power but also its existence.

## Technology:

The cyber warfare is mix of military and cyber tactics that have changed the collective security to cyber security. The social media plays a crucial in the manipulation of mass narratives. Spreads fake news and impacts the political elections in a state.

[Link example to statement](#)

## Analytical Framework: Before :

IR has been evolved



From liberalism and Idealism theories, where cooperation, collective security was major diplomatic solution to avoid future conflicts.

**Now:** <sup>Contemporary relevance</sup> IR has shifted its focus towards major challenges like Cyber threats, terrorism, security dilemma and sustainable development - to preserve humans not just states.

### Conclusion:

The IR has emerged as an economic, social and political discipline to study cause of wars and keep on changing or having strong adaptability to avoid conflict in future. After Cold War, the power was given to one state. After that, through economic interdependence, states become dependent for trade, economy, security, and climate



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challenges. That has made IR an  
very complex study. Now the  
theories like Constructivism,  
feminism, and post-modernism  
have made IR a broader  
discipline that using soft power  
like Culture winning not hearts  
not just minds.

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